CLASSIFICATION _____ 25X1

COUNTRY____ Hungary

TOPIC____ Papa Airfield

EVALUATION_____ see below _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT___ 18 March and 8 April 1950

25X1 ____ DATE PREPARED____ 12 September 1950

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PAGES_____ 1 ____ ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)_____

REMARKS_____

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I. There was extensive flying in good weather at Papa (P 48/Y 30) airfield in March 1950. Firing at sleeve targets was often practiced from four single-engine planes. Large-scale construction work has been done at the field since the spring of 1949. In March 1950 hundreds of laborers were working on the taxiways, runways, hangars and EM quarters. The workers mentioned the considerable length of the runway but did not give its exact measurement. *

2. The town was heavily occupied by Soviet soldiers wearing blue service color. Esterhazy Castle, the former Cavalry Barracks, the Protestant Educational Establishment for Women and many public buildings and private houses were fully occupied. It was estimated that several thousand Soviet soldiers were there.

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3. On 8 April 1950 the airfield was occupied by more than 100 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes. It was said that the field had never before been occupied by so many planes. *

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* Comment. The field was allegedly released to the Hungarian Air Force in February 1949. large-scale 25X1 construction work at the field after its release. It is possible that a runway for jet planes was constructed. According to a previous report, 30 to 40 Soviet fighters arrived at the field in early September 1949, and an additional 30 to 40 fighters and about 2,000 men prior to 2 October 1949. The planes were allegedly LAs and Yaks. The presence of 100 fighters is believed possible. Two Soviet fighter regiments are presumably stationed at the field.

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** Comment. The information that air force soldiers are quartered in the castle and town agrees with a previous report.

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